that the scheme of teaching Yoga in Kendriya Vidyalayas was started in 1981-82 on an experimental basis and later it was decided for continuing the scheme on a regular basis.

The qualifications and pay scales of Yoga teachers (Rs. 1400-2300) were lower than those of Trained Graduate Teachers (Rs. 1400-2600) who have been granted the benefit of senior scale of pay.

The Board of Governors of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in 1995 decided to confirm those Yoga teachers who fulfilled the revised prescribed qualifications of graduation with three months training in Yoga. The question of giving higher scales of pay to the Yoga teachers who have been confirmed can be considered in the light of the recommendations of 5th Pay Commission as accepted by the Government.

Boarding and hostel facilities for girls

1167. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Central Scheme for strengthening of boarding and hostel facilities for girls students of secondary and higher secondary schools is under implementation in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme and hostels provided under the scheme in the state so far;

(c) whether the scheme has helped the State in increasing the ratio of retention of girl students; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUH RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Scheme, financial assistance is being given to eligible voluntary organisations to improve the enrolment of adolescent girls belonging to rural areas and weaker sections. Preference in providing assistance is given to hostels located in educationally backward districts, particularly those predominantly inhabited by SCs/STs and educationally backward minorities in the secondary and higher secondary schools.

Assistance under the scheme is provided for purchase of furniture, utensils, recreational aids etc. and for food for students and salary of cook and warden etc.

So far five hostels have been sanctioned in State of Maharashtra.

(c) and (d) An evaluation of the whole scheme to find out the real impact of the scheme is due to be undertaken this year.

Navodaya Vidyalayas in Arunachal Pradesh

1168. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pelased to state:

(a) how many Navodaya Vidyalayas have been established in Arunachal Pradesh; whether all such Navodaya Vidyalayas have been provided with all the necessary infrastructure facilities;

(b) what are the norms laid down for admission in such schools; and

(c) whether the locals who voluntarily donate lands for opening such schools are given some preference in the matters of admissions; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Seven (7) Navodaya Vidyalayas have been sanctioned in Arunachal Pradesh. Construction of permanent Vidyalaya buildings has been taken up for all the Vidyalayas except in Lower Subansiri district where the land has not yet been transferred to the Samiti. There is shortage of accommodation in the temporary buildings where these schools are run, but all basic minimum facilities like electricity, water arc provided to these Vidyalaya.

(b) Admission to Navodaya Vidyalaya is made only at Class VI on the basis of Test by N.C.E.R.T. A candidate appearing for the selection test must be studying in Class V in a recognised school in that District, where he/she is seeking admission and should be between 9-13 years of age as on 1st of May of the year of admission. The candidate must have also